

REMARKS

Further to the Advisory Action of May 10, 2005, Applicant submits a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a Preliminary Amendment. Applicant submits that this Preliminary Amendment amends Claim 9 but does not amend Claims 1-8 and 10-17 of the After Final Amendment filed on April 15, 2005. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

It is noted that the amendment is made only to more particularly define the invention and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, for narrowing the scope of the claims, or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

It is further noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claims, even if amended herein or amended during prosecution.

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

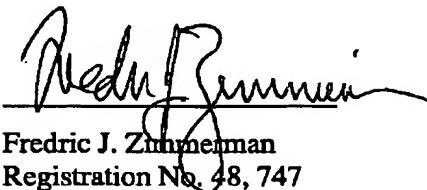
Please note, Applicant previously filed both a One (1) Month Petition For Extension of Time to reply to the Final Office Action, including a fee, and the After Final Amendment on April 15, 2005. The Petition was necessary as April 14, 2005, was the three (3) month date to respond to the Final Office Action of January 14, 2005.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that no additional extension of time is currently needed with the attached RCE and the Preliminary Amendment as these documents are being timely filed on May 13, 2005, which is prior to the fourth (4) month date from the issuance date of January 14, 2005, for the Final Office Action.

If necessary, please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayment to
Attorney's Deposit Account Number 50-1114.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 13 May 2005


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